



Calhoun: The NPS Institutional Archive

News Center

News Articles Collection

2015-04

Master's alum leads EMS preparedness study

Center for Homeland Defense and Security

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California

<http://hdl.handle.net/10945/51117>



Calhoun is a project of the Dudley Knox Library at NPS, furthering the precepts and goals of open government and government transparency. All information contained herein has been approved for release by the NPS Public Affairs Officer.

Dudley Knox Library / Naval Postgraduate School
411 Dyer Road / 1 University Circle
Monterey, California USA 93943

<http://www.nps.edu/library>

Master's alum leads EMS preparedness study

 chds.us/c/item/883



Michael Petrie – Photo courtesy of NASEMSO

A Center for Homeland Defense and Security master's degree graduate, working closely with the leadership of the National Association of State EMS Officials, was the lead author of a report backed by the DHS Office of Health Affairs offering recommendations filling preparedness gaps in the Emergency Medical Services field.

DHS enlisted the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO) to develop the [Emergency Medical Services Domestic Preparedness Improvement Strategy](#). NASEMSO formed a 23-person Policy Working Group facilitated by Michael Petrie, a renowned expert in the field who recently retired as the EMS Director of Santa Clara County (California) EMS to summarize the existing literature, facilitate the workgroup process, and craft the final strategic report.

The EMS profession is still young, with its modern roots from the 1970s and gaining newfound importance in the security-centric age following the 9/11 attacks. For EMS, and other professions, 9/11 reinforced the importance of inter-disciplinary collaboration, development of preparedness standards, and validation of preparedness capabilities.

Two of the report's goals call for just that—development of capabilities, based on research and data assessment and multi-discipline solutions, something to which CHDS is positioned to contribute.

“Within EMS, there is a growing emphasis on research, developing an academic base, and decision making, based on data and evidence; rather than anecdote and innuendo,” said Petrie. “Two goals (in the Strategy) center on data assessment and analysis. CHDS contributes to fulfillment of those goals by preparing this and the next generation of EMS and homeland security leaders with the tools they need to do their jobs, close gaps, and prepare our nation for catastrophic events.”

The EMS Domestic Preparedness Improvement Strategy's goals fall into four categories: (1) Development and Promulgation of an EMS Strategy; (2) Creation of EMS Preparedness and Response Guidelines; (3) EMS Preparedness and Response Data, Assessments and Analysis; and, (4) EMS Preparedness, Organizational Relationships, Responsibilities, and Structures. The multi-disciplinary team supporting the report employed the Nominal Group Technique in its deliberations and worked throughout the first half of 2014 gathering information and input, before DHS formally released the document in January 2015.

The composition of the research team reflected the diverse groups comprising EMS, an enterprise that involves numerous closely linked professions such as state and local government EMS administrators, ambulance and first response-based EMTs and paramedics, emergency communication centers, emergency medicine, provider organizations, and labor – professions well beyond the popular view composes emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and ambulances that show up at crash scenes.

“9/11 compelled leaders in all emergency services disciplines to see the interdisciplinary nature of our work,” Petrie noted. “Just like critical infrastructure protection is interrelated, so is EMS. It's important to understand EMS is a unique discipline in which many organizations have responsibilities. It's everything from dispatchers for the fire department to private ambulance companies to hospitals to emergency departments to labor unions.”

The profession has played leading roles in disasters ranging from Hurricane Katrina to the Boston Marathon bombings to this past summer's Ebola scare.

Petrie was a graduate of Cohort 0302, the second CHDS cohort, but said the education at the Center provides lasting benefit. He cited the civil-military relations course taught by Paul Stockton, a CHDS founder, and said pursuing his thesis spawned a continued passion for research and writing.

In addition, fellow CHDS alumni bring instant credibility.

“CHDS brings great credibility to everyone who has gone through it,” Petrie said. “Regardless of the metric, the CHDS program is outstanding. The critical thinking, analysis and networking involved in the program advances your ability to do everything. It refined my strategic approach to decision making and provided me with close friendships that have lasted a decade.”

[Copyright/Accessibility/Section 508](#)